

**United States**  
**Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

*Miles City Field Office*

**Lone Tree Creek**  
**Restoration**

Determination of NEPA Adequacy  
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0097-DNA

*For Further Information Please Contact:*

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Miles City, Montana 59301  
406-233-2800

BLM





**Worksheet**  
**Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

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**BLM Office:** Miles City

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2012-0097-DNA

**Case File/Project No:**

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Lone Tree Creek Restoration

**Location/Legal Description:** T. 2 S, R. 58 E, Section 10; Carter County, Montana

**A: Description of the Proposed Action:**

The Proposed Action is to improve stream functionality on Lone Tree Creek through a design-bid-build contract (see Figure 1). The project would include the following:

- The modification of the dysfunctional reservoir would be designed to restore stream form and function.
- Heavy equipment (e.g. excavator, dozer, scraper, grader, etc.) would be utilized in the project construction.
- Vegetation removal would be kept to a minimum.
- Erosion control (e.g. silt fences, wattles, hay bales, biodegradable matting, hydroseeding, etc.) would be implemented to control wind and water erosion and sedimentation.
- All erosion controls would be biodegradable and certified weed seed and insect-free.
- Dam embankment structure and wrap-around fill would be recontoured to blend with the surrounding area.
- Contouring would facilitate drainage toward natural dips, rocky ground, or well-vegetated areas.
- Topsoil and subsoil would be salvaged separately prior to recontouring, and would be replaced immediately following recontouring efforts.
- Topsoil would be replaced unevenly back over subsoil to blend with adjacent surface roughness (macro- and microtopography).
- Heavy equipment and vehicle use would not be allowed during conditions which lead to ruts greater than four-inches deep.
- The disturbed areas would be revegetated with native species.
- The site would be fenced (see Figure 1) to exclude livestock grazing until vegetation and streambank objectives are met. Breakaways would be built where the fence crosses Lone Tree Creek, for a total of two breakaways. Vehicle traffic would be restricted to within 30-feet of the fenceline for administrative use only. ATVs would be used as much as possible in areas not accessible by established roads. Fence would be standard 3-wire with the bottom strand smooth wire. The wire spacing would be 16", 26" and 38" from the ground up. Steel T-posts would be used as line posts and 8-foot treated wood posts (sunk 3.5-feet deep) will be used for all of the corners and braces.

- All equipment would be power washed prior to entering and upon leaving Federal lands to reduce the transport of noxious weeds.
- Noxious weeds would be promptly treated and controlled by the contractor.
- Construction activities will not occur from December 1 to July 15 to protect mule deer and pronghorn winter range habitat; sage grouse strutting, nesting and brood-rearing activities; and raptor and songbird nesting activities.

**Applicant:** BLM, Melissa Schroeder

**County:** Carter

**DNA Originator:** Melissa Schroeder

## **B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name Powder River Resource Management Plan

Date Approved 1984

☐ The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

☒ The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) This proposed action is in conformance with the Powder River Resource Management Plan ROD approved in 1984, designates that water quality will be maintained or improved and areas with accelerated erosion will be managed to improve watershed conditions (page 3). The ROD also designates that “approximately 5,000 acres with potential to support woody riparian vegetation will receive special management consideration to promote substantial reproduction to assure that mature woody riparian areas approach good or better ecological condition” (page 3). In addition, The Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing for Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota ROD as amended in 1997, on page 14 states the “guidelines are provided to maintain or improve resource conditions in uplands and riparian habitats available to livestock grazing.”

## **C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

[Lone Tree Creek Restoration EA \(DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2011-0186-EA\). Approved 06/13/2012](#)

## **D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?** The proposed action is the same as the existing NEPA document. The project area is the same location on BLM lands.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values?** Yes, the range of alternatives in the existing NEPA document is appropriate. The EA considered the proposed action and a no action alternative.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstance would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?** Yes, there is no new information that would change the analysis of the proposed action.

The edge of a 12 mile diameter polygon for a 1939 known occurrence of *Sporobolus compositus* (composite dropseed) is located within the watershed of the project area. However, given the large diameter polygon and no additional sightings, it is unlikely this species occurs within the project area. Also this species is ranked SH/G5 and therefore mitigation is not necessary for this species.

**4. Are the direct, indirect and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?** The cumulative impacts are the same.

**5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?** Yes, the interagency review and public involvement is adequate.

**E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>	<u>Initials &amp; Date</u>
Bobby Baker	Wildlife Biologist	wildlife	BJB 2/25/13
Matt Lewin	Range Management Specialist	range/vegetation	MJL 3/3/13
Doug Melton	Archeologist	Cultural	DM 02/06/13 Cultural Report MT-020-13-102
Chris Robinson	Hydrologist	hydrology	CWR 2/13/2013
Mel Schroeder	Soil Scientist	project lead/soil/rehabilitation	MJS 01.30.2013
Brenda Witkowski	Natural Resource Specialist (Weeds)	Invasive Species	BSW 1/31/13

  
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**Environmental Coordinator**

3/4/2013  
**Date**

**F. Mitigation Measures:** List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.

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**CONCLUSION**

☒ Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked



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Todd Yeager  
Field Manager  
Miles City Field Office

03/04/2013  
Date

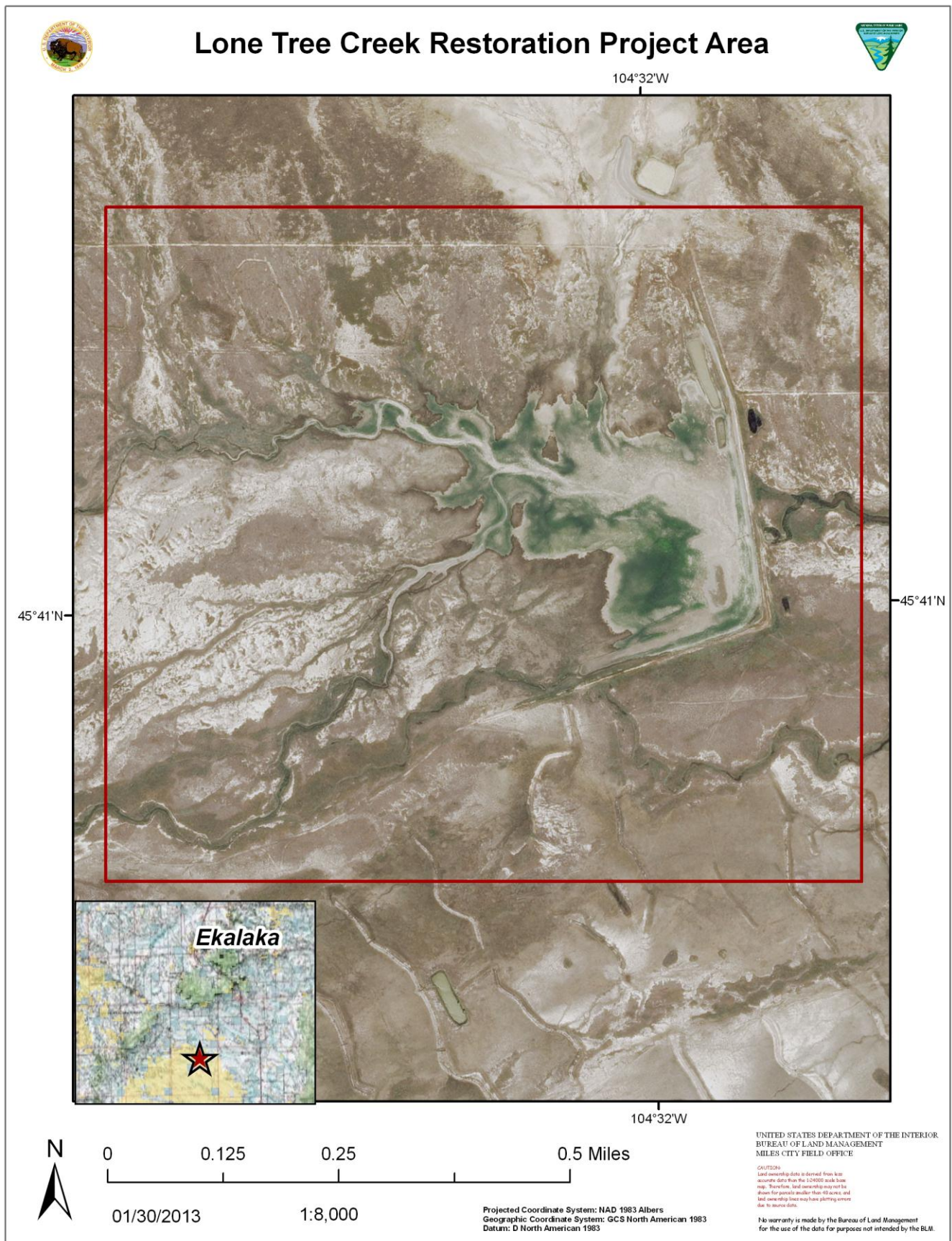


Figure 1: Map of Lone Tree Creek Restoration Project Area